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From: editor@mountainwestnews.org
Sent: Fri 10/30/2015 6:35:21 PM
Subject: Mountain West News Daily Newsletter

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The CMR North Side Near Harper Ridge

Photo courtesy of
Rick and Susie
Graetz

Mountain West News is a
program of the
O'Connor Center for the Rocky
Mountain West at
The University of Montana

Friday,

Oct. 30, 2015

Produced by Shellie Nelson, MW News Editor

[Mountain West Voices](#)

Editor's notes:

In the **Rockies today**, a federal measure would study the economic benefits of outdoor recreation, a review finds Montana's oversight of railroad safety lacking, and more energy companies report quarterly losses.

Barbara Theroux reviews Kim

Colorado Sen. Cory Gardner and New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen introduced the bipartisan Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contributions Act, which would require the federal government to study the economic effects of outdoor recreation.

Mountain West
Montana's two-year colleges
revamp education to meet

Those benefits may become more important than ever in states like Colorado and Wyoming, where low oil and natural gas prices are taking big bites out of energy companies' profits, with Anadarko cutting spending in Colorado and the largest natural gas producer in Wyoming announcing a \$3.1-million loss in the third quarter, a considerable drop from the \$125-million profit posted in the third quarter of 2014.

Mountain West

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The slowdown in the oil market may give Montana some time to catch up on rail safety, after a state legislative audit found no active rail safety plan or a cohesive disaster preparedness plan for an oil spill.

And in Colorado, layoffs in the energy industry may help the construction industry, which has been struggling to find workers, deal with the demand for 10,000 workers to help build the \$500 million Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center in Aurora.

Yellowstone Public Radio will broadcast Mountain West Voices at 7 a.m. on Sunday, with this week's broadcast following pronghorn antelope, which make the second longest migration of any North American land

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animal.

Their ancient migration routes are threatened by livestock fencing. That's because, for all their speed - they have been clocked at 65 mph - pronghorn won't jump over barbed wire fences, and have difficulty passing under.

This episode of Mountain West Voices looks at an innovative solution to the dilemma.

We urge listeners to take the time to visit Mountain West Voices' website, where photos of the antelope and the obstacles they face along their migration route, are posted.

So, please tune into Yellowstone Public Radio on Sunday at 7 a.m., and visit [Mountain West Voices website](#) to view the whole story.

Quote of the day:

"Aside from ensuring the minimally mandated number of rail safety inspections are being conducted on an annual basis, PSC is not actively engaged, internally or externally with other stakeholders, in rail safety."

From the report of the **Montana Legislative Audit Division** on its review of the state's oversight of railroad safety, a rising concern due to the increased volume of oil shipped by rail through the Big Sky State.
- Flathead Beacon (AP)

Rockies today

Colorado senator wants study of economic benefit of outdoor recreation

Although there have been myriad studies done of the economic benefit of outdoor recreation, none of those studies have been government-sponsored, and Colorado U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner and U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire are co-sponsoring a bipartisan bill, the Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contributions Act, which would require the secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the outdoor recreation economy, with the Bureau of Economic Analysis taking the lead on the study.

Durango Herald; October 30

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Audit finds weaknesses in Montana's railroad safety, response plans

On Wednesday, the Montana Legislative Audit Division released its report on its review of the state's oversight of the railroad industry and system that found just two inspectors for the whole rail system, a lack of an active rail safety plan and no statewide emergency planning or spill response system, and specifically criticized the

Public Service Commission for doing just minimum oversight and Disaster and Emergency Services for not having a statewide response plan in place.

Flathead Beacon (AP); October 30

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Grand Teton NP releases EIS on Moose-Wilson Road

On Thursday, Grand Teton National Park released its 694-page environmental impact statement on the Moose-Wilson Road corridor, setting in motion a 60-day comment period on the four alternatives, which includes a "no action" alternative. The preferred Alternative C would cap vehicles in the narrow corridor at 200, which would happen only sporadically during times of high traffic. That alternative also does not contain a plan for a multiuse trail.

Jackson Hole News & Guide; October 30

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Commission considers changes to oil, gas rules in E. Wyoming

A dramatic increase in the number of oil and gas permits issued in the eastern third of Wyoming has groups and landowners seeking the expansion of state law regulating emissions from those operations to that side of the state, and on Wednesday, the Wyoming Air Quality Advisory Board took public comment on extending those restrictions to Laramie County and other areas of the state, except for the Upper Green River Basin and the Pinedale Anticline Development Area, where specific rules for each of those areas apply.

Casper Star-Tribune (Wyoming Tribune Eagle); October 30

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Alberta-based Husky Energy mulls asset sale after cutting

1,400 jobs

Husky Energy's confirmation Friday that the Alberta-based oil and gas company had cut 1,400 jobs so far this year puts it ahead of all other producers in terms of job cuts, even Suncor Energy, which announced in July that it was cutting 1,300 jobs.

Calgary Herald; October 30

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Wyoming's largest natural gas producer posts \$3.1M 3Q loss

Just as low prices and high debt have bedeviled oil and coal operators in Wyoming, those financial components were cited by officials of Ultra Petroleum, the largest natural gas producer in the state in terms of volume, for its \$3.1-million third-quarter loss. Natural gas prices fell even lower after stockpile reports were released and mild winter forecasts issued.

Casper Star-Tribune; October 30

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Texas-based Anadarko curbs spending in Colorado due to

\$2.2B 3Q loss

Anadarko Petroleum reported a \$2.2-billion loss for the third quarter, and announced that it would delay production on 200 oil wells, most of which are in Colorado's Wattenberg Field, where the company has more than halved spending this year, where spending fell from \$574 million in the first quarter to \$282 million in the third quarter.

Denver Post (Greeley Tribune); October 30

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Idaho legislators work to iron out wrinkles in energy

development process

Five years after energy companies came calling in Idaho, work is underway to tap the pool of natural gas that underlies Payette County and other areas of the state, but landowners who are dealing with energy companies are uncertain about state regulations put in place to protect them, companies are frustrated with the process designed to encourage development, and state legislators are unhappy with the secrecy under which one operator is working, but a meeting with Alta Mesa officials and a tour of the Little Willow Gathering Facility, and a planned meeting next week with landowners appear to be changing the process.

Idaho Statesman; October 30

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Construction of \$500M Colorado convention center will need 10K workers

Now that RIDA Development Corp. has lined up the \$500 million needed to build the 1,500-room Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center in Aurora, contractors will need to begin rounding up the estimated 10,000 construction workers needed to build the project over the next three years, a task Michael Gifford, president and CEO of the Associated General Contractors of Colorado, called "doable."

Denver Post; October 30

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Water

Owner of Gold King Mine takes firm stand on Colorado mine's future

Todd Hennis, who purchased the Gold King Mine in 2005 as part of a foreclosure sale, has yet to mine the network and he has been mum since the Aug. 5 spill at the Colorado mine that sent 3 million gallons of contaminated water into the Animas River, but Hennis had plenty to say on Tuesday at a stakeholders meeting in Silverton, where he talked about the Environmental Protection Agency's work on his land over the past five years, his unheeded warnings about water building up due to the bulk-headed American Tunnel and future plans for wastewater treatment on his lands.

Durango Herald; October 30

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Beyond the region

Hundreds attend land-use meeting on Owyhee Canyonlands in Oregon

A push from environmental groups to designate 2.5 million acres in Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands a national monument was the impetus for Thursday's meeting in Adrian, where a crowd of 500 people, most of whom appeared to oppose such a designation. State Rep. Cliff Bentz of Ontario moderated the meeting, and named twelve representatives from six counties to serve on a panel to further study the issue, although all 12 had expressed skepticism about the national monument designation.

Portland Oregonian; October 30

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Canada falls to 111th of 199 nations in funding to protect wildlife

A study done by The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that compared conservation spending of 199 nations, Canada ranked 111th when it came to protecting disappearing wildlife. The study also found that the federal government isn't alone, as Canadian non-government groups, universities and charitable foundations have also curbed their wildlife conservation efforts.

Calgary Herald (Ottawa Citizen); October 30

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Attitude on saving species tilting toward triage

Although no one at Environment Canada would discuss the agency's decision to no longer fund the captive breeding program for the Eastern loggerhead shrike population, which has shrunk to just 11 breeding pairs despite the 885 shrikes released over the past 14 years the captive breeding program has been in place, the decision appears to be part of a trend seen lately where scientists around the world have adopted a "triage" attitude about species conservation—that it, save the ones most likely to survive rather than the ones teetering closest to extinction.

Vancouver Sun (Ottawa Citizen); October 30

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